

Message Text

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73

ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 AF-10 OIC-04 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-09 H-02 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01

PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12 RSR-01 /120 W
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R 031749 Z APR 73

FM USMISSION GENEVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8633

INFO USUN NEW YORK 8631

AMEMBASSY LISBON

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE GENEVA 1503

E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SOCI, ECOSOC

SUBJECT: HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION - PORTUGUESE LETTER RE REPORT
OF AD HOC GROUP ON SOUTHERN AFRICA (ITEM 10 A)

1. PORTUGUESE PERM. REP. IN GENEVA SENT LETTER DATED
31 MARCH TO CHAIRMAN OF HRC (E/ CN:4/1126) MAKING SHARP
ATTACK ON REPORT OF WORKING GROUP. THE LETTER TOOK
ISSUE WITH PHRASE " AFRICAN TERRITORIES UNDER PORTUGUESE
DOMINATION" WHICH IT DEEMED INSULTING. FURTHER
QUESTIONED IMPARTIALITY AND INDEPENDENCE OF THE GROUP
BECAUSE OF " THEIR DOUBLE NATIONAL AND POLITICAL
ALLEGIANCE OR ON ACCOUNT OF THEIR RELIGION." LETTER
CONTINUED THAT " WITNESSES" WERE CHOSEN FROM AMONG MEMBERS
OR ORGANIZATIONS ENGAGED IN TERRORIST ACTIVITIES AGAINST
PORTUGAL. A WHOLE LIST OF ATROCITIES ATTRIBUTED
TO PORTUGUESE AUTHORITIES HAS BEEN BUILT UP AND
WHOLLY UNFOUNDED ACCUSATIONS OF RACIAL DISCRIMINATION.
ACCUSATIONS ARE SO ABSURD AS TO BE ALMOST GROTESQUE.
GROUP COMPLETELY DISREGARDED UNIMPEACHABLE EVIDENCE OF
MEMBERS OF NUMEROUS BODIES THAT HAVE FREELY VISITED
PORTUGAL DURING RECENT YEARS.

2. LETTER REFERRED TO ICRC REPORTS WHICH FOUND CONDITIONS
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OF DETENTION NORMAL AND SATISFACTORY. GROUP DISREGARDED THESE REPORTS. GOP CANNOT, WITHOUT BETRAYING THE RESPECT IT OWES TO ITSELF AND THE PORTUGUESE NATION, REPLYRMULA COULD BE UTILIZED IN GENERAL WAY TO PARTICIPATION QUESTION OR FOR MORE SPECIFIC PURPOSE SUCH AS CONSTRAINTS.

2. ON OTHER POINTS, SOURCE REPEATED GOI INSISTENCE ON RESOLUTION OF PARTICIPATION ISSUE BEFORE MOVING ON TO OTHER ITEMS AND SAID THAT GOI COULD PROBABLY, BUT RELUCTANTLY, AGREE TO NON- CIRCUM-VENTION FORMULA WHICH DID NOT SINGLE OUT EITHER HUNGARY OR ITALY.

3. TURNING TO QUESTION OF MIT RECESS, OFFICIAL THOUGHT IT MIGHT BE DISIRABLE TO HAVE BREAK IN VIENNA TALKS ROUGHLY COINCIDENT WITH CSCE APRIL. RECESS. THIS WAS NOT ONLY NATURAL POINT FOR SUCH A RECESS BUT HAD ADDED ADVANTAGE OF MAINTAINING SOME CSCE/ MBFR PARALELLISM. VOLPE

CONFIDENTIAL

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

Message Attributes

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Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
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Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 03 APR 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: willialc
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Drafter: n/a
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Executive Order: n/a
Errors: n/a
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30 JUN 2005

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TAGS: SOCI, SZ, ECOSOC
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